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CLAIMS

1. A continuous process for making a particulate detergent composition or component which comprises feeding
5 starting materials comprising a surfactant acid precursor and a particulate alkaline neutralising agent into a mixer/granulator to produce a granulated product stream, characterised in that a fraction of the product stream is cooled and recycled into the
10 mixer/granulator.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of the recycle stream is at least 10°C below, preferably at least 20°C below, more preferably at
15 least 30°C below, more preferably at least 40°C below, most preferably at least 50°C below that of the mixer/granulator.
3. A process according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the
20 recycle stream immediately after separation from the product stream contains particles which have a number average particle size which is less than that of the product stream, preferably less than 50% of that of the product stream, more preferably less than 30% of that
25 of the product stream.
4. A process as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the recycle stream has a surfactant concentration which is within 5%, preferably within 3%, ideally within 2%,
30 of that of the product stream.

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5. A process as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the product stream enters a fluidised bed and an exit stream from the fluidised bed is the recycle stream.
- 5 6. A process as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the recycle stream is from 25 to 60% of the mass flow rate of the product stream, preferably from 30 to 50%.
7. A process as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein
10 the temperature in the mixer/granulator is no greater than 100°C, preferably no greater than 80°C
8. A process as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the starting materials comprise a first feed stream
15 comprising at least 10 wt% of surfactant acid precursor and a second feed stream comprising a particulate alkaline neutralising agent and optionally an additional feed stream in addition to the recycle stream.
- 20 9. A process as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the starting materials comprise a heat-sensitive surfactant or acid precursor thereof.
- 25 10. A process as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the surfactant acid precursor is of an anionic surfactant.

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